

ABSTRACT

Washington County Office Building 1936
33-39 West Washington Street
Hagerstown
Washington County

An example of preservation through adoptive use, this Classical Revival style, brick structure was erected in 1936 for Montgomery Ward and Company. The building has huge proportions and is three stories high with a mansard roof along Washington Street (north side). Although the first floor front was sympathetically altered in recent years, the principal facade still retains much of its original integrity.

The building was designed by Robert R. Rowe and is representative of a basic architectural format used by the Ward firm in the 1930s. The estimated cost of the structure when applying for the building permit was \$75,000.

Washington County purchased the property in 1973 when Montgomery Ward and Company moved to a new location. In addition to being used for county offices, the building also houses the county District Court of Maryland.

The property is Lot No. 99 on the original plat of Hagerstown. It is also the site of the Hagerstown Bank Building, a circa 1800 Neoclassical structure razed for the construction of the present building.

HISTORIC SITE
SURVEY INVENTORY

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Washington County Office Building				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Montgomery Ward Building; "District Court Building"				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 33-39 West Washington Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Washington	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: County Commissioners of Washington County				
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington County Courthouse				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			STATE: Maryland	21740
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Washington County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: 95 West Washington Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 568-298				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins		<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>The Washington County Office Building, which also houses the District Court of Maryland, is located at 33-39 West Washington Street in Hagerstown, Washington County, and stands on the south side of the street in the eastern half of the block formed by Public Square and Summit Avenue.</p> <p>The building is a typical example of the Georgian Revival influenced structures built in the 1930s for Montgomery Ward and Company, Incorporated. Erected in 1936, the building is a three stories high, brick structure of huge proportions with a dormered mansard roof along the facade (north side) fronting on Washington Street. It sits tight to the sidewalk and the neighboring building on the west but is free standing along Rochester Place, an alley on the east. The principal facade (north side) is divided into two distinct but sympathetic sections: the first floor which was renovated in 1973-1974 and the second and third floors which are as they were built in 1936.</p> <p>The first floor originally had an Art Deco influenced commercial front consisting of a run of large plate glass windows the length of the facade and part way along the east side at Rochester Place with a centered doorway and was surmounted by a decorative, metal band bearing the name of the Ward firm. Following county acquisition in 1973, the building was converted for offices and the original street level facade was replaced with the present classical influenced front, which is sympathetic in lines and materials to the upper stories. Two huge, pedimented doorways with fan lights and double-doors flank a central arrangement of five bays which correspond in spacing to the five windows of the second floor. The three center bays are recessed blank, brick walls with stone sills. The two outer windows beside the doorways each have one large sash with twenty lights. The two corners of the front are covered with stone and there are five, rectangular stone panels above the center bays.</p> <p>The upper floors have five, large windows symmetrically arranged in the center of the facade with five correspondingly placed dormers in the mansard roof. The windows are the double-hung, wooden sash type with multiple lights: sixteen-over-sixteen on the second floor and six-over-six in the dormers. The second floor windows have boldly projecting, shelf-like entablatures and turned balustrades. Quoin-like stone panels decorate the outer edges of the second floor and a Chinese influenced balustrade runs along the base of the roof flush with the dormers.</p> <p>The bricks of the facade and east side are laid in Common bond (2 rows of stretchers to a row of headers).</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1936

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An example of preservation through adoptive use, this Classical Revival style, brick structure was erected in 1936 for Montgomery Ward and Company. The building has huge proportions and is three stories high with a mansard roof along Washington Street (north side). Although the first floor front was sympathetically altered in recent years, the principal facade still retains much of its original integrity.

The building was designed by Robert R. Rowe (architectural drawings) and is representative of a basic architectural format used by the Ward firm in the 1930s (the Montgomery Ward Building in Cumberland, Allegany County, is very similar to this one). The estimated cost of the structure when applying for the building permit was \$75,000 (Building Permit No. 649, 29 January 1936).

Washington County purchased the property in 1973 when Montgomery Ward and Company moved to a new location. In addition to being used for county offices, the building also houses the county District Court of Maryland.

The property is Lot No. 99 on the original plat of Hagerstown. It is also the site of the Hagerstown Bank Building, a circa 1800 Neo-classical structure razed for the construction of the present building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Building Permits, May 1933 - September 1937 (p. 87) and architectural drawings. Office of Building Inspector, City Hall, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, Maryland.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

The property measures approximately 82' x 240'.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Preservation Consultant (mbe)

ORGANIZATION

City of Hagerstown

DATE

May 24, 1976

STREET AND NUMBER:

City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:

Hagerstown

STATE

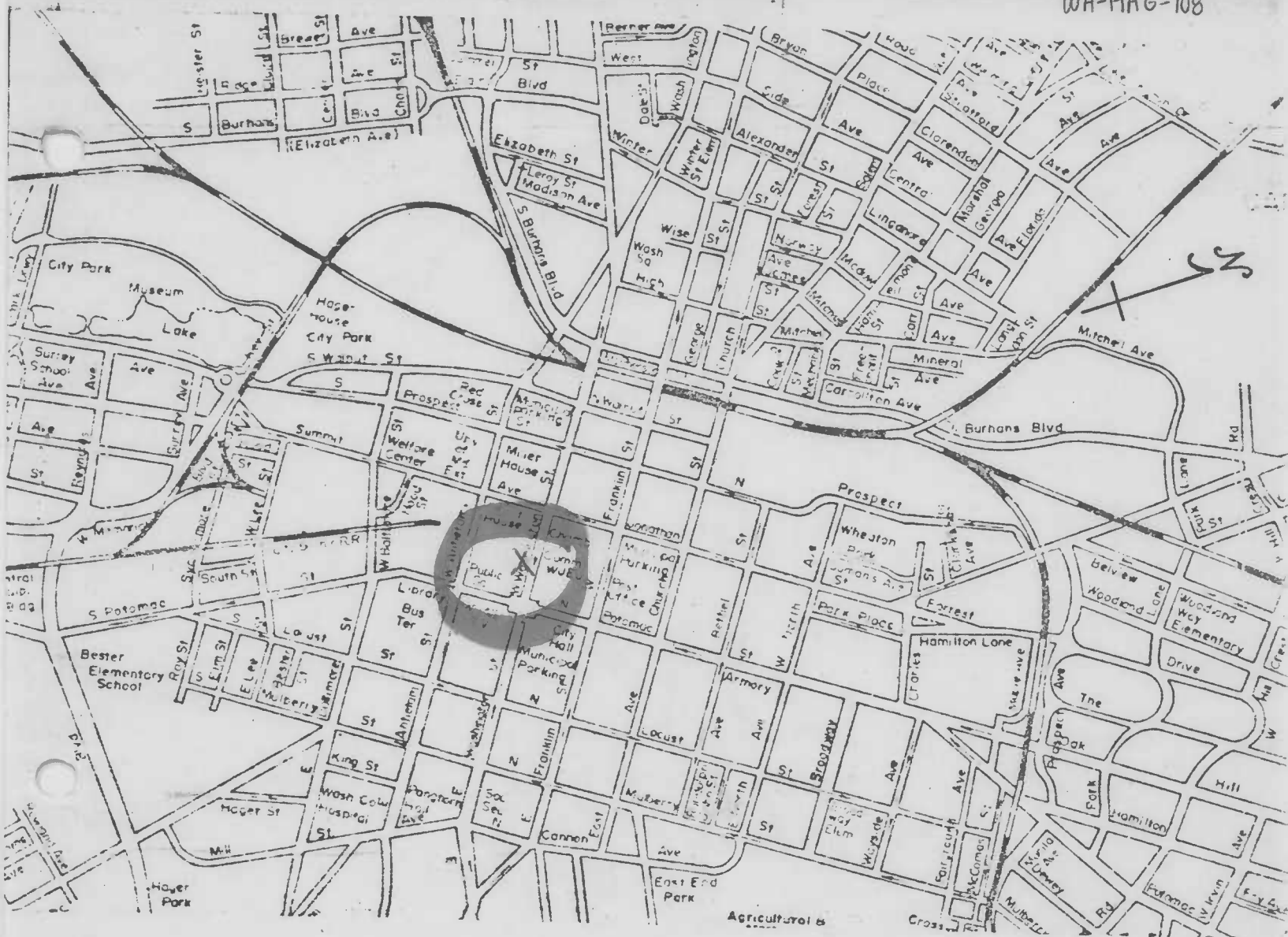
Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____



SITE: Washington County Office Building
 33-39 West Washington Street
 Hagerstown
 Washington County, Maryland

map: City of Hagerstown,
Washington County, Md.
 City Engineering Dept.
 July, 1970
 scale 1"=1200'



WA-HAG-108

Washington County Office Building

33-35 West Washington St.

Hagerstown

Washington Co., Md.

NE view

October, 1975

RONALD L. ANDREWS